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## THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )  
Pafford et al. ) Attorney Docket No: 1842-0029  
Application No.: 10/749,822 )  
Filed: December 31, 2003 ) Examiner: To be assigned  
Title: Dynamic Spinal Stabilization System ) Group Art Unit: 3731

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 21, 2004

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Michael D. Beck

Name of person mailing Document or Fee

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May 21, 2004

Date of Signature

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, Applicants hereby disclose the following references.  
Copies of the U.S. references are not provided herewith since this application was filed after the waiver date of June 30, 2003.

Information Disclosure Statement

May 21, 2004

Page 2 of 2

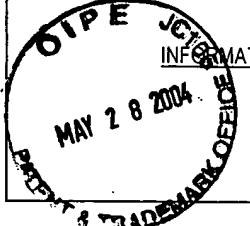
<u>U.S. Patent No.</u>	<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
4,946,458	Harms et al.	08/07/1990
5,041,113	Biedermann et al.	08/20/1991
5,042,982	Harms et al.	08/27/1991
5,207,678	Harms et al.	05/04/1993

It is believed that no fees are due for the consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement because this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before receipt of the First Office Action. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-0014, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

May 21, 2004  
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Respectfully Submitted,  


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 <b>FORM PTO-1449</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>	ATTY. DOCKET NO.: 1842-0029	APPLICATION NO. 10/749,822
	APPLICANT: Pafford et al.	
	FILING DATE: December 31, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT: 3731

<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	4,946,458	08/07/1990	Harms et al.			
	AB	5,041,113	08/20/1991	Biedermann et al.			
	AC	5,042,982	08/27/1991	Harms et al.			
	AD	5,207,678	05/04/1993	Harms et al.			
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL						Yes No
	AM						Yes No
	AN						Yes No
	AO						Yes No
	AP						Yes No

**OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

	AQ	1	
	AR	1	
	AS	1	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.